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SENT DEPARTMENT 547, REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 151.

BEGINNING WITH SPEECH BY LEMMER AUGUST 30 THERE HAS BEEN SERIES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS ABOUT GDR REFUGEES. DEEP CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT SITUATION WHICH FORCES CONTINUED STREAM OF PEOPLE TO LEAVE HOMES IN EAST ZONE, INCLUDING RECENTLY UNUSUALLY HIGH PROPORTION INTELLECTUALS.

IN FACT, NUMBER REFUGEES IS NOT GREATER THAN USUAL ALTHOUGH STIFFE CONTROLS ON ZONAL BORDER HAVE INCREASED CONCENTRATION OF REFUGEE FLOW TO BERLIN AND CREATED HOUSEKEEPING AND PROCESSING PROBLEMS THERE.

RASNER, CDU WHIP, SAYS SERIES OF STATEMENTS NOT PREMEDITATED OR ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN BUT EXPRESSION OF WIDESPREAD CONCERN AT STEADIL INCREASING PRESSURES ON PEOPLE, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, ETC., IN ZONE. HE SAID RESPONSIBLE LEADERS BELIEVED WORLD ATTENTION FOCUSED ON CRISES IN NEAR AND FAR EAST AND THAT IT IS TIME TO CALL ATTENTION TO CONTINUING SERIOUS SITUATION HERE. AT SAME TIME IT IS IMPORTANT AVOID PROMOTING UNREST IN ZONE AND TO DISCOURAGE FLIGHT WHICH IS "BLEEDING ZONE TO DEATH". LEADERS OF PARLIA- MENTARY Factions HAVE AGREED TO MEET WITH LEMMER SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS WHAT STEPS BUNDESTAG MIGHT TAKE. PARTIES HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO BUT EXPECT EMPHASIZE INJUSTICE AND OPPRESS WHICH CAUSES FLIGHT RATHER THAN AN APPEAL FOR HELP FOR PRESENT REFUGEES. OPEN POSSIBILITIES INCLUDED BUNDESTAG RESOLUTION APPEALING TO WORLD OPINION, TO FOUR POWERS, TO THESE PLUS OTHER GOVTS OR TO USSR. RASNER NOTED PRACTICE NOT TO DISCUSS BERLIN OR ZONAL PROBLEMS IN BUNDESTAG MEETINGS IN BERLIN BUT SAID, IF AGREEMENT REACHED AT MEETING WITH LEMMER AND IT APPEARS RESOLUTION CAN BE PUT THROUGH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, QUESTION MAY BE PUT ON AGENDA FOR OPENING SESSIONS BUNDESTAG BERLIN FIRST WEEK OCTOBER.

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-2- 547, SEPTEMBER 5, 7 PM, FROM BONN

HAMMERSTEIN, PRESS OFFICER, MINISTRY ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS ADMITTED TO EMBASSY OFFICER SITUATION SOMEWHAT OVER DRAMATIZED. PEAK OF REFUGEE FLOW APPARENTLY PAST WITH END VACATION PERIOD, BUT SITUATION OFFERS TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY CALL ATTENTION GERMAN PROBLEM AND SINCE CAMPAIGN GAINED MOMENTUM, ALL PARTIES HAD TO GET INTO ACT.

BRUCE

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